

# **Exhibit 33**

Transcript of the Testimony of  
**Sarah Saldana**

**Date:**

June 29, 2018

**Case:**

STATE OF TEXAS vs UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Sarah Saldana

June 29, 2018

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

STATE OF TEXAS, et al. :  
Plaintiff :  
 :  
vs. : C.A. NO. 1:18-cv-00068  
 :  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, :  
et al. :  
Defendant :

ORAL DEPOSITION OF  
SARAH R. SALDANA  
JUNE 29, 2018  
VOLUME 1 OF 1

ORAL DEPOSITION OF SARAH R. SALDANA,  
produced as a witness at the instance of the Plaintiffs,  
and duly sworn, was taken in the above-styled and  
numbered cause on June 29, 2018, from 9:01 to  
11:34 a.m., before Vonda P. Treat, CSR No. 2584, in and  
for the State of Texas, reported by machine shorthand,  
at the offices of the Texas Attorney General, 1412 Main  
Street, Suite 810, Dallas, Texas, pursuant to the  
Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the provisions as  
stated on the record or attached hereto.

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DEPOSITION OF SARAH R. SALDANA

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ALSO PRESENT:

Ms. Caitlin Lavery (Telephonically)

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1 A. -- many do.

2 Q. Do you have -- if you don't, it's completely  
3 fine. But do you have any estimate about how much the  
4 smugglers charge?

5 A. You know, let's say over my 14 years of law  
6 enforcement experience, I've heard numbers from as low  
7 as \$3,000 to 10- or \$15,000 for southern countries.

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. When you're talking about Iraq, Syria or, you  
10 know, other countries that are overseas, that number  
11 could be much higher.

12 Q. Okay. Thank you.

13 Now, I want to ask similar questions  
14 related to narcotics. How do narcotics get smuggled  
15 into the United States across the southern border?

16 A. There are a hundred different ways. Criminals  
17 have a way of coming up with different ways. It can be  
18 as simple as scaling, let's say, the walls that there  
19 are in the middle of the night when they think there is  
20 less vigilance and dumping drugs on the other side that  
21 someone else is required to pick up, to going into  
22 submarines, particularly over in the California coast,  
23 underground in caves that they've built to get  
24 undetected into the country. There are as many ways as  
25 there are criminals to think of those ways to come up

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1 with that.

2 Q. Are some of the same routes used to smuggle  
3 immigrants and narcotics?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do some of the same people who smuggle  
6 narcotics also smuggle immigrants?

7 A. I believe we have cases of that.

8 Q. Okay. I just want to -- first, I want to make  
9 one thing clear just so I understand it. When we're  
10 talking about smuggling immigrants, that's different  
11 than human trafficking. Is that fair?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. How is that -- what is the distinction between  
14 the two?

15 A. Coercion.

16 Q. Can you be a little more --

17 A. In trafficking, the -- the person being taken  
18 across the border is not voluntarily doing so or is  
19 doing so voluntarily but under false apprehensions,  
20 understandings. In smuggling, it's -- they're partnered  
21 with the immigrant. They get paid a certain amount of  
22 money. So it's the coercive aspect that is involved in  
23 trafficking.

24 Q. Okay. Do some of the people who smuggle  
25 immigrants also engage in human trafficking?

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1 person from coming over.

2 Q. Okay. And what are some of the -- well, first,  
3 what are push-and-pull factors?

4 A. A push factor is something that -- that compels  
5 a person to feel like they have to leave their country.  
6 A pull factor is how they may go about making their  
7 determination about where to go.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. So . . .

10 Q. Let me maybe ask you specifically. So what are  
11 some push factors?

12 A. On immigration, some push factors are violence  
13 in a particular state, the insecurity there is of  
14 people, drugs, economic opportunity or lack of it.  
15 Things like that.

16 Q. Sure.

17 What about pull factors? What are some  
18 pull factors?

19 A. So one could just reverse what I just said:  
20 Good economy, safety, security in an area. That kind of  
21 thing.

22 Q. What about immigration benefits provided by the  
23 receiving country? Could that potentially be a pull  
24 factor?

25 MS. MORENO: Objection, vague.



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1 A. When you say potentially, I'm not sure I  
2 understand. Can you try to restate that question?

3 Q. Yeah.

4 Are immigration benefits provided by the  
5 receiving country pull factors?

6 MS. MORENO: Objection, vague.

7 A. In general, they could be.

8 Q. How so?

9 A. Because you get an immigration benefit.

10 Q. Okay. What about DACA specifically? In your  
11 opinion, is DACA a pull factor for immigration?

12 A. My opinion, no.

13 Q. Why not?

14 A. Because DACA requires someone to come out of  
15 the shadows and declare themselves, so to speak; and  
16 someone who is coming into the country illegally  
17 generally doesn't want to do that. That's why they're  
18 coming into the country illegally; they don't want to  
19 come out of the shadows.

20 And I'll also tell you that we had the  
21 Department of Homeland Security -- we met weekly with  
22 the secretary; and we had briefings pretty often on  
23 push-and-pull factors of people coming into the country,  
24 why migration patterns were there the way they were.  
25 And I never once heard anything about DACA being a

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3 STATE OF TEXAS, et al. :  
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5 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, :  
6 et al. :  
7 Defendant :

7 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION  
8 DEPOSITION OF SARAH R. SALDANA  
9 JUNE 29, 2018  
10 VOLUME 1 OF 1

10 I, Vonda P. Treat, Certified Shorthand Reporter  
11 in and for the State of Texas, hereby certify to the  
12 following:

13 That the witness, SARAH R. SALDANA, was duly  
14 sworn by the officer and that the transcript of the oral  
15 deposition is a true record of the testimony given by  
16 the witness;

17 That examination and signature of the witness  
18 to the deposition transcript was considered waived under  
19 Federal Rule 30(e)(1) because no request for signature  
20 was made at the time of the deposition;

21 That the original deposition was delivered to  
22 Mr. Todd Lawrence Disher, Custodial Attorney;

23 That pursuant to information given to the  
24 deposition officer at the time said testimony was  
25 taken, the following includes counsel for all parties

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1 of record:

2 FOR THE PLAINTIFFS: Mr. Todd Lawrence Disher;

3 FOR THE DEFENDANT: Mr. Aaron Goldsmith;

4 FOR THE DEFENDANT INTERVENORS: Ms. Celina Moreno;

5 FOR THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEFENDANT INTERVENOR:  
6 Mr. Brian DeVito;

7 That a copy of this certificate was served on  
8 all parties shown herein.

9 I further certify that I am neither counsel  
10 for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties or  
11 attorneys in the action in which this proceeding was  
12 taken, and further that I am not financially or  
13 otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

14 Certified to by me on this \_\_\_\_ day of

15 \_\_\_\_\_ 2018.

*Vonda P. Treat*

16 Vonda P. Treat, CSR No. 2584

17 Expiration Date: 12-31-18

18 Firm Registration No. 631

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